

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03343 070711Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 CIEP-02

SCEM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 022444

R 061520Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4589

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T JIDDA 3343

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SA, TC

SUBJ: NEW SAG PROTEST RE ABU DHABI OIL ACTIVITIES

REF: ABU DHABI 1096

1. SAUDI LETTER TO ABU DHABI GOVT PROTESTING DRILLING ACTIVITY IS CLEARLY AIMED AT MAINTAINING SOME COLOR OF RIGHT TO MOST EXTREME OF SAUDI POSITIONS (PERHAPS ORIGINAL SAUDI LINE OF 1949) ASSUMED FROM TIME TO TIME BY SAUDIS DURING VARIED PHASES OF THIS HIGHLY DURABLE DISAGREEMENT. OCCASIONALLY SAQQAF HAS MENTIONED THAT IF SHAIKH ZAYID DID NOT WISH PROCEED ON BASIS VARIOUS "GENEROUS" CONCESSIONS SAG HAS EXTENDED (SUCH AS TENTATIVELY PROFFERED ABDICATION OF SAG CLAIM TO BURAIMI OASIS) THEN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT GO BACK TO "BASIC, INITIAL" POSITIONS.

2. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, CONSISTENTLY URGED ON SAUDIS VIRTUES OF SETTLEMENT, ADDING THAT AS MORE POWERFUL OF TWO STATES SAG IN BEST POSITION TO COMPROMISE. APPARENT REASSERTION OF MOST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03343 070711Z

EXTREME CLAIM BY MEANS OF LETTER CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT HELPFUL

TOWARD FURTHER STIMULATION OF REASONABLE DIALOGUE THROUGH WHICH SOME PROGRESS MIGHT BE HOPED FOR. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY EMBASSY'S RAISING THIS MATTER WITH SAG.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE CAN IMAGINE SHAIKH ZAYID MAY BE INCLINED TO SEND EQUALLY AGGRESSIVE RESPONSE. SHOULD THIS PROVE CASE, THEN PERSONAL LETTER FROM OTAIBA TO YAMANI MIGHT HELP MITIGATE FURTHER DETERIORATION IN EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO SIDES.

4. IF MATTER IS HANDLED IN SUCH WAY, HOPEFULLY IMPACT WILL NOT BE TOO ADVERSE AND SOONER OR LATER WE MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER AGAIN WHETHER WE CANNOT IN SOME FASHION GIVE DISPUTE A SHOVE WITHOUT INVOLVING OURSELVES OR AFFIRMING FOR U.S. LONG-RUN INTERMEDIARY ROLE.

5. IN THIS REGARD IT STRIKES US THAT KEY TO PROBLEM IS ONE-MILE-WIDE STRIP ABU DHABI CLAIMING FROM QATAR BORDER ALONG COAST TOWARD SABKHAT MATTI. WITHOUT COMMITTING OURSELVES SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT WE THINK SAUDI REACTION MIGHT BE, NOR PROMISING TO TAKE UP MATTER WITH THEM, WE MIGHT AT SOME LATER TIME SUGGEST TO ADG THAT OFFER ON ITS PART TO GIVE UP STRIP MIGHT BE MEANS FOR GETTING DISPUTE OFF DEAD CENTER. IF MOST OF ONE-MILE STRIP WERE RELINQUISHED, SAUDIS WOULD BE ASSURED OF THEIR "WINDOW TO SEA." NOW THAT PROSPECTS FOR UNION OF ALL NINE GULF STATES HAVE GONE AGLIMMERING, THERE IS LITTLE FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FOR ADG CLAIM TO LONG COASTAL REGION OVER WHICH ADG DOES NOT IN ANY CASE CURRENTLY EXERCISE CONTROL. SUCH CONCESSION MIGHT BE BASIS ON WHICH SAUDIS COULD BE ASKED BY ADG TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UAE.
THACHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRILLING, PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA03343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS THACHER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730856/aaaabozw.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ABU DHABI 1096
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SAG PROTEST RE ABU DHABI OIL ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PBOR, SA, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005